

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /074 W  
----- 065606 /17

P R 201058Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4159  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IS  
SUBJECT: CABINET CRISIS

1. SEVERAL POLITICAL OBSERVERS HAVE TOLD US THAT RABIN'S UNEXPECTED DECISION TO EXPEL THE NRP FROM THE COALITION FOLLOWED A LENGTHY MEETING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR. THESE OBSERVERS ALSO POINT OUT THAT RABIN'S DECISION WAS KNOWN ONLY TO A SMALL NUMBER OF LABOR PARTY LEADING PERSONALITIES: GOLDA, JUSTICE MINISTER ZADOK, FINANCE MINISTER RABINOWITZ AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO GALILI.

2. THE EARLY JUDGMENT OF MOST OBSERVERS IS THAT RABIN'S MOVE WAS BASED ON THREE FACTORS: FIRST, HE WAS DETERMINED TO DEAL WITH DEFENSE MINISTER PERES IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP. ADVANCEMENT OF THE DATE OF THE KNESSET ELECTIONS-- AN ALMOST SURE RESULT OF RABIN'S DECISION TO BREAK UP THE COALITION--MEANS THAT THE DECISION WITHIN THE PARTY REGARDING ITS LEADERSHIP WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE;  
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RABIN IS SAID TO HAVE FELT THAT THE LONGER THIS DECISION WAS POSTPONED, THE STRONGER PERES WOULD BE. SECOND, RABIN CLEARLY HOPED TO MOVE EFFECTIVELY TO SETTLE INTRA-PARTY AND LABOR PARTY/HISTADRUT DISAGREEMENTS AND ENTER THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BEFORE THE NEW PARTIES OF YADIN AND SHARON HAD TIME TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES EFFECTIVELY. THIRD,

EXTERNAL FACTORS PLAYED A SOMEWHAT MINOR ROLE: RABIN IS BELIEVED TO WANT AN EARLIER ELECTION SO THAT HE COULD PARTICIPATE WITH A RENEWED MANDATE IN WHATEVER DEVELOPS IN 1977 IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS. ALSO, HE PROBABLY FELT THAT AN EARLY ELECTION WOULD ENABLE HIM TO BENEFIT FROM PUBLICITY REGARDING MOVES TOWARD PEACE BEFORE THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN TO ENCOUNTER THE ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTIES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**TAGS:** PINT, IS, (RABIN, YITZHAK)  
**To:** STATE  
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